

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 01381 011741Z

21

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SUBJECT: MILAN GETS COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT

1. AFTER WEEKS OF NEGOTIATION, MILAN CITY COUNCIL MET LATE JULY 31 FOR FIRST MEETING AND WITH SURPRISING SPEED RE-ELECTED SOCIALIST ALDO ANIASI AS MAYOR WITH COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST COALITION.

2. MAJORITY CONSISTED OF 25 PCI, 11 PSI, 3 PSDI, 3 SPDI (NOW EX-PSDI), 4 PDIUP, AND 2DC (NOW EX DC).

3. TWENTY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ABSTAINED BUT TWO DK COUNCILMEN DEFECTED AND WERE ELECTED ASSESSORE - I.E. MEMBERS OF GIUNTA AND HEADS OF MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS.

4. MAJOR SURPRISE WAS DEFECTION OF AMBITIOUS LONER FIRST TERM DC COUNCILMEN FRANCESCO OGLIARI, CONSERVATIVE ANTI-COMMUNIST LAWYER AND PIER GIORGIO SIRTORI, ALSO KNOWN AS CONSERVATIVE BOTH PROMPTLY EXPELLED FROM DC.

5. SPLIT IN PSDI WAS ALSO UNFORSEEN. EXPECTATION WAS THAT ENTIRE GROUP WOULD FOLLOW PSDI COUNCIL LEADER PILLITTERI WHO TOLD US AFTER ELECTIONS THAT HE SAW NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT RELATION WITH COMMUNISTS. IMMEDIATELY AFTER VOTE, PILLITTERI, WALTER ARMANINI

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PAGE 02 MILAN 01381 011741Z

AND VITO FIORELLINI EXPELLED FROM PSDI AND FORMED

MOVIMENTO UNITARIO DI INIZIATIVA SOCIALISTA (MUIS).

6. WHILE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC-SOCIALIST-SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICAN MAJORITY WAS POSSIBLE ON PAPER, THIS FORMULA FOUNDERED UPON SOCIALIST INSISTENCE THAT COMMUNISTS BE MEMBERS OF COALITION. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WERE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS IN OPPOSING SUCH A DEAL AS WERE THE REPUBLICANS. FACED WITH CHOICE OF GOING INTO OPPOSITION OR ACCEPTING COMMUNISTS, DC CHOSE FORMER.

7. THIS NEW SITUATION HAS LEADERS OF THREE MAJOR PARTIES VERY EDGY.

8. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FOR FIRST TIME EXPECT TO LOSE PATRONAGE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE OLD TIME WARD STRUCTURE FACES COLLAPSE AS JOBS ARE LOST TO HUNGRY COMMUNIST FAITHFULS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MANY YOUNGER DC LEADERS SEE THIS PURGE AS ONLY WAY TO RE-BUILD YOUNGER, CLEANER, TOUGHER ORGANIZATION. BUT, OVERALL, DC HERE DEEPLY SHAKEN BY LOCAL AND NATIONAL SITUATION.

9. COMMUNISTS WORRIED BECAUSE THEY WILL NOW SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT AND BE VULNERABLE TO DC ATTACK. THIS COULD BE PROBLEM WITH NEWLY GAINED SUPPORTERS WHOM PCI AND EVERYONE ELSE BELIEVES NOT IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED TO PCI BUT ANGRY AT DC MISGOVERNANCE. SUCCESS IN FORMING MAJORITY WITHOUT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IS ALSO BLOW TO BERLINGUER'S COMPROMESSO STORICO SINCE IT STRENGTHENS STALINIST VIEW THAT PCI CAN COME TO POWER ON ITS OWN TERMS.

10. SOCIALISTS RELIEVED THAT COMMUNISTS NO LONGER ABLE TO EXPLOIT ROLE AS OPPOSITION AND NOT REALLY WORRIED ABOUT DC. BUT BADLY WORRIED KNOWING THAT THEY ARE NOW LOCKED IN WITH BETTER-LED, MORE POWERFUL, TOUGHER, RICHER AND BETTER DISCIPLINED PARTY KNOWN FOR EATING SOCIALISTS.

11. THERE THUS BEGINS A VERY IMPORTANT NEW POLITICAL REALITY HERE THAT WILL HAVE WIDE INFLUENCE UPON BOTH PUBLIC OPINION AND PARTY POLITICS. THE COMMUNISTS KNOW THIS AND DESPITE THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MILAN 01381 011741Z

FEARS ARE WELL PREPARED IN MILAN TO MAKE A GOOD SHOWING AS EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATORS AND LOYAL, DEMOCRATIC COLLABORATORS. THEY HAVE EVEN HINTED TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS THAT THE DC WILL NOT LOOSE ALL OF ITS PATRONAGE ALTHOUGH IT IS NOW IN THE OPPOSITION*

PERHAPS BY COINCIDENCE, MILAN TODAY IS WELL POSTERED WITH UNUSUAL PICTURE OF BENIGN, PATERNAL LENIN WATCHING STREETS EMPTY AS VACATION BEGINS.

12. MEANWHILE, MUCH THE SAME SCENARIO IS BEING
PLAYED IN VENICE WHERE ELECTION OF A SOCIALIST MAYOR
BY A COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST CITY COUNCIL IS IN THE CARDS.FINA

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